



Department of Planning and Environment

Biodiversity Conservation Licence

Rehabilitate injured, sick and orphaned protected animals

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

Ms Leanne Taylor	Date: 1 July 2023
Suite 1-5, 117 Old Pittwater Road PO Box 7276	Licence no.: MWL0000100285
Warringah Mall NSW 2100	Expiry date: 30 June 2026

This biodiversity conservation licence applies to *Wildlife Information Rescue and Education Services Inc (WIRES)* (a wildlife rehabilitation group).

WIRES is hereby licensed by this biodiversity conservation licence in accordance with the provisions of Part 2 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and subject to the conditions contained herein, to:

- harm (i.e. capture or kill) injured, sick and orphaned protected animals for rehabilitation purposes or animals causing a nuisance to property owners, including 'injure' (i.e. tag, band¹ or microchip) protected animals that were captured for rehabilitation purposes
- liberate (release) protected animals that were captured for rehabilitation or relocation purposes in a place other than the point of capture of the animals
- deal in (possess, import or export only) protected animals that were captured for rehabilitation purposes:
 - for care and/or treatment
 - for education
 - as a companion animal for social species
 - as preserved specimens.

The licensee and any authorised persons may undertake the activities permitted under this licence on the following protected animals:

Mammals	Permitted	Birds	Permitted	Reptiles and frogs	Permitted
Flying-foxes and microbats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Birds of prey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Snakes, lizards and monitors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Koalas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Seabirds and waterbirds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Freshwater turtles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Possums and gliders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Birds (general)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marine turtles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Macropods	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Sea snakes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wombats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Frogs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monotremes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Marine mammals	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Other mammals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

Terms used in this licence are defined in the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017, *Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)*, and the department's Rehabilitation of Protected Animals Policy and Codes of Practice.

Signature of delegated officer

Duan March

A/Manager Wildlife Programs and Regulation Unit
National Parks and Wildlife Service
Department of Planning and Environment

¹ Note that additional approval from the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme may be required to band birds and bats.

Licence conditions

Under section 2.14 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* it is an offence to contravene or fail to comply with a condition of this licence.

General conditions

1. The licensee may issue an authority to a person to operate under this licence if:
 - a. they are a member of the wildlife rehabilitation organisation listed on this licence, and
 - b. they are at least 18 years of age (unless the group has adopted the lower permissible age of 12 years), and
 - c. they meet the training standards outlined in the relevant department Code of Practice for the protected animals permitted on this licence.
2. The licensee must ensure that *active wildlife rehabilitators* authorised under this licence:
 - a. reside within the group's allocated geographic zone of operation (Attachment A), or
 - b. meet the department's Rehabilitation of Protected Animals Policy requirements for persons who can participate in wildlife rehabilitation while residing 'out of zone'.
3. The licensee and authorised persons must comply with:
 - a. the department's Rehabilitation of Protected Animals Policy, and
 - b. the standards in the department's Codes of Practice for the protected animals nominated on this licence, and
 - c. any directives issued by an authorised officer.
4. The licensee and authorised persons must:
 - a. produce this licence or evidence of their authority when requested by an authorised officer under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. Where photo identity cards are issued by the group, these must include the expiry date shown on the licence
 - b. permit an inspection of any equipment, facilities or records associated with the rehabilitation of protected animals nominated on this licence by an authorised officer under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
5. The licensee and authorised persons must immediately notify the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) at invasive.species@dpi.nsw.gov.au upon receiving knowledge of the location or the capture of a non-indigenous animal listed in Schedule 3 of the Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW).

Retention of protected animals

6. The licensee can only apply to the department to permanently possess non-releasable protected animals when the animal:
 - a. belongs to a species that needs to be rehabilitated in a social group and will serve as a companion under these circumstances or
 - b. will be involved in community education activities or training programs for rehabilitators or
 - c. will be used in a breeding program authorised by the department.

Management of escaped pets

7. If there is strong evidence that the protected animal is an escaped pet (e.g. it was found well outside of its natural range), the licensee and authorised persons must take reasonable efforts to locate the owner and return it; for example, by taking the animal to a veterinarian to see if it is microchipped, or by calling the local herpetology group. If the animal cannot be returned to its owner, notify the NPWS Wildlife Team using the appropriate form so the animal can be rehomed.

Public exhibition of protected animals

8. The licensee and authorised persons must not permit any public viewing, display or exhibition of any protected animals undergoing rehabilitation under this licence. This condition shall not apply to:
 - a. the use of such protected animals for the essential demonstration of husbandry techniques at a licensee-sanctioned rehabilitation training course (except for un-furred mammals), and
 - b. filming for promotional, educational or community interest purposes at a rehabilitation facility or, with the group's committee or its wildlife welfare team's consent, at any other location.

Record keeping

9. The licensee must maintain an up-to-date record of all the protected animals reported or captured under this licence in compliance with the standards specified in the department's Codes of Practice.
10. The licensee must also maintain an up-to-date record of all:
 - a. persons who are authorised to operate under this licence including their full name and full street address
 - b. protected animals transferred to other institutions, organisations or individuals (both in NSW and other state jurisdictions) that have the authority to possess them. This report must contain details of the protected animal and when and to whom it was transferred
 - c. permanently held live protected animals including details of the approval granted by the NPWS Wildlife Team
 - d. preserved specimens of species listed in Schedules 1 and 2 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, species of marine mammal, species of marine reptile and species of bird of prey held for educational purposes including details of the approval granted by the NPWS Wildlife Team. Each preserved specimen must be permanently marked with the reference number, and
 - e. all persons authorised to implement a permit from the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) to undertake in-situ control of sarcoptic mange in wombats.
11. Copies of all records must be submitted no later than 30 September each year in the standard report template provided by the NPWS Wildlife Team.
12. All records required to be kept under this licence must be made available for inspection when so requested by an authorised officer under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

Import or export of protected animals from/to NSW

13. This licence permits the licensee and authorised persons to transport a protected animal to and from NSW, or to another state or territory, to expedite its assessment, treatment, temporary care or meet the release requirements detailed in the department's Codes of Practice, in accordance with the following conditions:
 - a. the person or organisation receiving an animal is a licensed wildlife rehabilitation provider or veterinary hospital
 - b. the import and export requirements of the other state or territory jurisdiction are met prior to the movement of an animal, and
 - c. the authorisation of movement of protected animals out of and into NSW will not apply to healthy 'catch and release' animals.

In-situ treatment of free-living wombats affected by mange

14. A licensee who possesses a permit from the APVMA to undertake in-situ control of sarcoptic mange in wombats must:
 - a. within 14 days notify the NPWS Wildlife Team that the permit has been issued, and
 - b. maintain a current record of any authorised persons operating under this licence who will implement the permit (see condition 10e).

Catch and release of reptiles

15. This licence permits the licensee and authorised persons who are at least 18 years of age, and have at least 2 years of prior experience in handling of reptiles or have completed a practical reptile handling course with key skill areas including identification and venomous snake handling, to catch and release nuisance reptiles from a premise in accordance with the following conditions:
- they possess a current first aid certificate and carry first aid snake bite equipment to the site, and
 - they hold healthy reptiles no longer than 3 days, and
 - they release reptiles in an area within the species' natural distribution within 20 km of the original capture site, as far away from human occupation as possible.

Catch and release of possums

16. This licence permits the licensee and authorised persons to catch and release nuisance possums from a premise in accordance with the following conditions:
- cage traps must be checked each day between the hours of 5am and 10am
 - a possum must not be left in a cage for a period of more than 24 hours
 - a possum removed from a roof cavity must be inside a cage covered with a permeable material
 - a possum must be released after sunset on the property on which it was captured, within 150 m from the point of capture, and
 - a possum must be released against a structure that it can immediately climb.

More information

Records, notifications and enquiries should be directed to:

Wildlife Team
National Parks and Wildlife Service
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124
Phone: (02) 95856406
Email: wildlife.licensing@environment.nsw.gov.au

Online resources

- [Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme](#)
- [Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016](#)
- [Catch and release reptiles](#)
- [Codes of Practice](#)
- [Possum Management Policy](#)
- [Rehabilitation of Protected Animals Policy](#)
- [Schedule 3 of the Biosecurity Act 2015 \(NSW\)](#)
- [Standards of care for licensed wildlife rehabilitation providers](#)
- [Practical techniques in wombat mange treatment](#)